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PARK UNIVERSITY 2005/7
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2005-2007

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Parkville under water as river rises

BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE

Torrential rains fell on Parkville May 6 and 7, 2007, flooding English Landing Park. The water level caused the city to evacuate all the businesses south of the railroad tracks on May 8, according to a press release from Parkville Mayor Kathryn Dusenbery.

South of the tracks, the evacuation was mandatory, but a voluntary evacuation was in effect for all the businesses north of the tracks.

In the two-day period, the city was drenched in about six inches of rainfall, bringing the river level from below 15 feet to about 36 feet, according to the National Weather Service. The river level was still well below the record of 48 feet set during the flood in 1993, but in the moderate stage warranting some concern in Parkville.

The University, however, remained relatively unaffected by the high water level.

"The effect has been pretty minimal," said Randy Bailey, director of environmental services. "We've had a few more leaks in the learning center than we've had in the past, but there's not much we can do to stop that."

The only tangible effect the flooding had on the university was the temporary closing of the university's south exit to outbound traffic on May 8 and 9 during peak traffic hours.



Narva Photo/ Rhonda Asher

The flooding in Parkville spilled into English Landing Park, placing much of the area under a substantial amount of water and providing comfortable surroundings for geese.

According to Rita Weighill, associate vice president for communication, the city turned the stop light off to ease congestion during peak traffic hours on 9 Highway, because vehicles were getting backed up all the way to I-635 and 9 Highway.

Weighill said the cause of the congestion was cars heading into town to see the flooding in English Landing.

"Evidently lots of people wanted to see the flood," Weighill said.



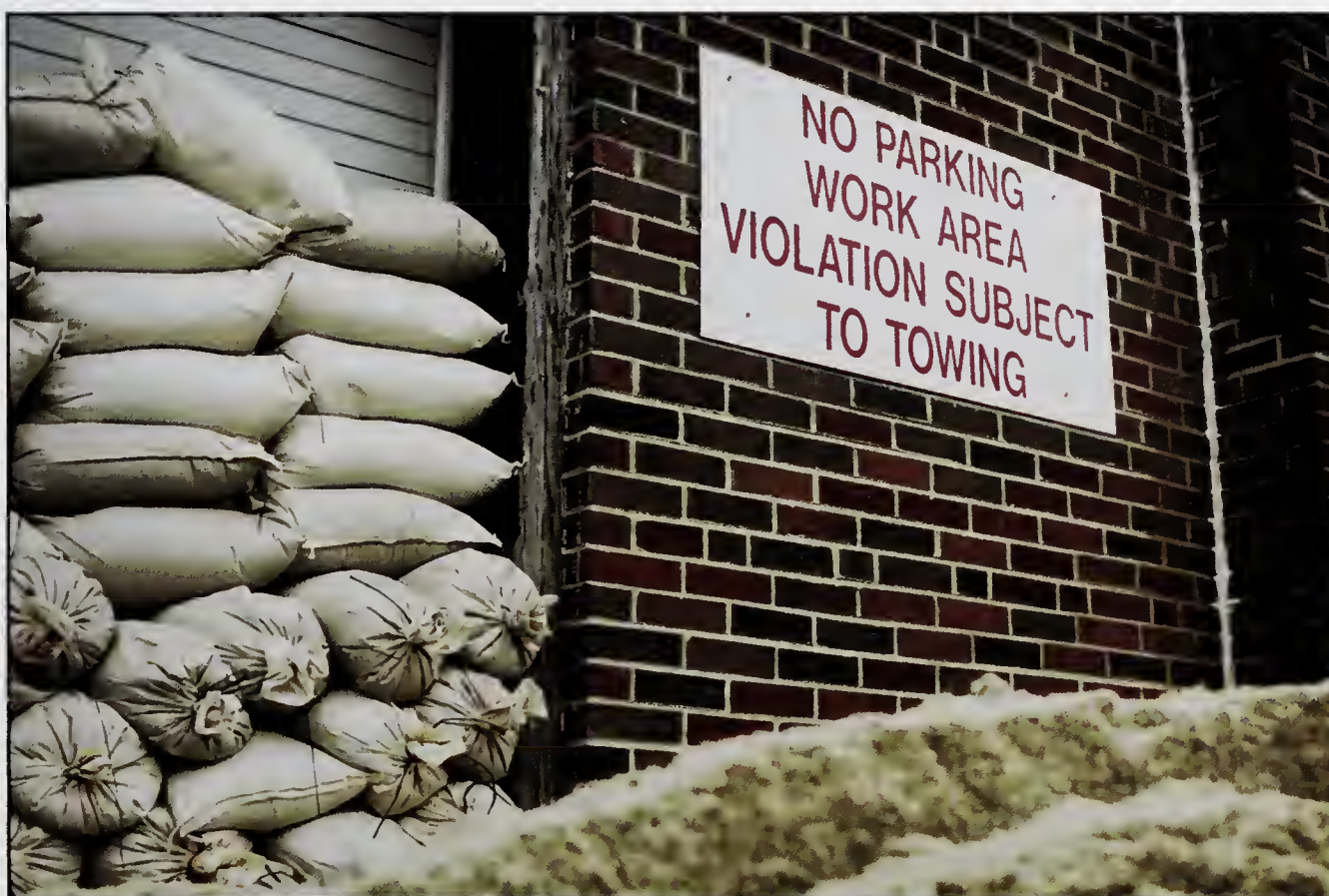
Narva Photo/ Alan McArthur

Visitors from across Kansas City flooded into Parkville to see the submerged park, causing traffic backups along 9 Highway toward I-635.



Narva Photo/ Alan McArthur

Curious onlookers monitor the raising waters on the footbridge in English Landing Park.



Narva Photo/ Alan McArthur

Shop owners piled the sand bags high to try to keep floodwater from pouring in and ruining thier merchandise. Others opted to move to higher ground.

'The effect has been pretty minimal,' said Randy Bailey, director of environmental services.

'We've had a few more leaks in the learning center than we've had in the past, but there's not much we can do to stop



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'I remember thinking even the sky looked different...'

BY REBECCA JOHNSON

On the surface, Le M. Thang looks like a 23-year-old Asian American in his tennis shoes and black Park hoodie. Then, as he raises his voice to be heard over the blustery October wind, it becomes clear something about him is different. Le has an accent you've never heard before.

His accent is an ethnic stew of Australian twang, Vietnamese articulation, and American rhythm and slang. It is a hodge podge of the different countries Le has called home and is a true melting pot of the tongues that make Le a cultural

adventurer.

Le is from Hanoi, a city in Vietnam where small houses are everywhere crowding the old and narrow streets. Family-owned shops selling silk and traditional Vietnamese medicines offer a bargain on every busy corner.

"There are a lot of motorcycles," Le says. "More than you would believe."

In Hanoi, Le ate rice every day of his life, and he hated it.

"I didn't have a choice," Le says, brushing his thick black bangs aside to uncover his dark eyes. "That's what you eat there."

Being an only child with working parents, it was Le's responsibility to

get dinner on the table. Rice was always on the menu.

"You have to sit down together as a family to eat," he says. "Going out to dinner is not something that's done in Vietnamese culture."

As he got older, Le learned to get creative with rice and eventually found he liked cooking. He regrets not all of his time at home was as enjoyable as his time spent in the kitchen. Unable to get along with his father, Le's home life was often unhappy.

"I didn't like the way he treated my mom," Le begins. "I disagreed with it. I had to fight. Eventually, I realized I couldn't share the same roof with him anymore."





Photo/Tessa Elwood

A rainy night in New Orleans finds Le and Alan McArthur exploring the French Quarter, one of the few areas not devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Then, when he was 18, Le had a chance to get away. Awarded a full-ride scholarship to Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, he jumped at the chance to get away from home.

"When you live somewhere like Vietnam, you do the same things every day, and you don't know anything better, so you're content with the life you're living," Le says. "Most people never see a need to go beyond that, or find anything new."

But Le isn't "most people." "I remember after I got off the plane, and stepped out of the airport into Australia for the first time," Le says. "It was overwhelming. It was the beginning of a new life. I remember thinking that even the sky looked different."

Le was amazed by the ways of life he found in the new world where he'd landed.

"I never knew freedom of speech existed before I went there," he says. "There's

no such thing as that in Vietnam. I'm not an expert on politics, but the Vietnamese government controls what people see and what they say, and there are restrictions that cannot be broken."

School too was drastically different than anything Le had ever known at home.

"The teacher and student roles in Vietnam are very well defined," he says. "You have a one-way relationship with the teacher. They talk. You listen."

Le quickly figured out it was ok for him to challenge his Australian professors. Taking great care to be respectful, he found it was all right to share his thoughts and ideas with them, even when he didn't agree.

"I thought, if I'm allowed to express myself freely, then I'm going to do that," Le says. "Because I grew up without the right to voice my own opinions as I chose, I value freedom of speech more than others who were born with it and take it for

granted."

Le graduated with a degree in economics, but also had a lot of interest in psychology. He devoted a great deal of his time to studying the subject. When he realized nearly all the psychological studies he was reading about had been performed in America, Le decided to take another giant leap to travel to the United States.

"I couldn't make sense of why I was sitting in Australia reading about things people were doing in America. I wanted to be where the studies were actually happening, not where people were just reading about them."

Le applied to several colleges in America. When a mail carrier delivered his acceptance letter from Park, Le was surprised and even a little confused.

"I forgot all about Park," he says. "I couldn't even remember applying for admission."

Knowing nothing about the university, Le decided to give Park a try and has not been disappointed.

"I'm glad I decided to come," he says. "It's been a nice experience."

Though he has one already, Le is cooking up a second college degree, this time in psychology. He hopes to one day have a doctorate in organizational psychology.

"I want to be just like Bob in the movie 'Office Space,'" Le says with a laugh. "I'm fixated with what his character does for a living."

In addition to learning how to "be like Bob," Le also wrote for The Stylus, Park's student newspaper. He says it wasn't hard to fit journalism into his repertoire.

"Psychology and journalism go hand in hand because, under the surface, what makes you good at one is the same thing that makes you good at the other," Le says. "You have to learn how to talk to people and that isn't an easy thing. Most people are nice and polite on the outside, but won't tell you what they really think. Being able to get to the bottom of how people truly feel is what makes you stand out in both professions."

Traveling has given Le a lot of cultural insight and much to write about. He has observed human nature and says it has a benevolence which transcends all cultures.

"No matter where I am, I run into good people that go out of their way to help me," Le says. "I've been accepted everywhere I've gone and embraced by all different kinds of people who have all had their own interesting stories to share."

Still, Le says he's seen the ugly side of humanity.

"In Australia, there is a lot of racism," he says. "It's a common belief there that it's ok to be a racist and outwardly act like one in public because you have the right to do so. In the United States, people are more civilized, and don't do that because they realize it can be harmful."

Le doesn't get homesick and doesn't miss his family. He hasn't spoken to his father since he left Vietnam and communicates with his mother via email on rare occasions. He doesn't think his parents know he's living in America.

"I don't have the sense that I need

family," he says matter of factly. Under heavy, gray clouds, Le appears emotionless. He shivers in a gust of chilly autumn air and pulls his hoodie tight around him. "When you have to leave your home like I did, you don't miss what you got away from."

Le says one day he will go back to Vietnam to visit and see how his parents are doing.

"As much as I don't get along with my dad," he says, "I can't cut that connection

completely. They're still my family."

When the day comes for Le to return to the noisy streets of busy Hanoi, he'll make dinner for his family, but it won't be rice he puts on the table.

"I've learned a lot about barbeque being here," he says. "I make great baby back ribs."

Le contemplating what life has to offer him next.

Photo/Tessa Renee Elwood





Photo/Tessa Elwood

Kosednar does it all: DJ, cameraman, goalie and full time student

*Kosednar's 'to do' list
features goals, done
and prevented*

BY REBECCA JOHNSON

A golden summer tan still clings to his skin, and his brown hair shines with blonde highlights that come from spending long days in the sun. Sophomore Sean M. Kosednar leans back in his chair, and looks the part of a beach bum in loose shorts and flip flops.

Masquerading under this carefree façade is a student athlete to whom the notion of free time is a stranger. Goalie for the soccer team, DJ on Pirate Radio, Northland News cameraman, and full time college student - Kosednar does it all.

Majoring in communication arts with a broadcasting concentration, Kosednar's initial interest when he started at Park was in television. When he had to take a radio class for a degree requirement, Kosednar found he was good behind the mic. He decided to try his luck at putting together a radio program, and now hosted "All 90's All Night" from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Wednesday last year. During his block you could hear anything from the boy band beats of New Kids on the Block to gangsta rap of the late Tupac Shakur.

A music lover, Kosednar says the biggest appeal of radio is sitting in a room

for two hours listening to whatever music he chooses. He squirms in his chair as he tries to single out a single musician who he likes to hear the most. Looking first up to the ceiling and squinting hard in thought, he lowers his head to study his sandals as he deliberates. Initially claiming the task would be impossible, in the end he was able to decode.

"I guess Ben Folds Five is my favorite," he says. "They sound different than anybody else. There's no big guitar, but a lot of piano. I like them because they're different, but really I like anything that gets played. It has to be really bad before I say no more of this."

Kosednar's interests go beyond music and radio. He's also into sports. Intrigued by the competition and strategy involved, Kosednar says he'll play anything but has a soft spot for what other countries call 'football.' In America, it's called soccer, and he first started playing on a team when he was in elementary school. On his birthday, his coach had a surprise for him.

"He told me I could pick any position I wanted to play, and I wanted to be the goalie," he recalls. "I knew right away that I loved it."

Kosednar is still loving it tending

goals for Park's soccer team alongside teammates recruited from 10 different nations. Bosnia, Serbia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ireland, Scotland, Uganda, and Spain have all been recently represented by Pirate soccer, and have contributed their own cultural strengths to the team's dynamics.

"We recruit people who are talented at what they do and fit them into our own style," Kosednar explains. "Most defenders come from European countries, and our mid-fielder is from Kenya. The different cultures' strategies don't fight each other because we put them all to work where they are strongest. We all fit together to help out the team."

Kosednar says soccer has never caught on in the United States because Americans have gotten too traditionally accustomed to baseball, football, and basketball. He thinks soccer is always made the underdog to more popular competition in this country.

"There's no time that there's a gap for soccer," he says. "It's always like we can choose between watching baseball or soccer, or between football and soccer - there's no season when soccer can be the number one sport."

Though soccer hasn't gained fame in

America yet. Kosednar thinks it will get more popular with time.

"It will have to be passed down," he says. "Guys like me will have to get their kids interested in soccer, and then they'll have to get their kids into it, and eventually it will catch on."

According to FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), the pro-soccer trend Kosednar predicts for America may already be well on its way. Their records show that the United States has nearly 18 million soccer players. That is more than any other country in the world.

What ingredients do you use to make a good soccer player? Kosednar says most important are big helpings of good work ethic and determination.

"You have to love to play," he explains. "If you're not a starter, you may only play 10 or 15 minutes, so you have to really love it to put up with sitting on the bench most of the game – and you'll have to work really hard and practice to get better. Otherwise, you'll stay on the bench and you'll never have any fun."

How does he know? Not a starter, Kosednar says he's spending a lot of game time sitting right now. But, don't think this has dampened his enthusiasm for the sport.

"I love the game," he says, "and I really like the guys on the team. I can't imagine not playing."

Kosednar says playing and getting on the fans' bad side is harder than waiting to be put into the game.

"If you let in a goal, they all look to you because you let it in," he says. "You have to put those kinds of mistakes behind you. If you get mad every time a goal gets scored, you'll just give up another one. You've gotta be able to move quickly. You might be going right, and a shot comes in to your left. You have to be able to dive left fast and come up with the big play."

Slouching in his chair, Kosednar taps his pen against the blank page of his open spiral notebook and describes an innate game-time sonar that turns on inside his head when he's defending the goal.

"I always know who's where on both teams. I know who's open, what they're doing, and what they need to be doing. I can see a lot from my position on the field."

When it comes to soccer, Kosednar has one thing on his mind – the game. But off the field, Kosednar's lifestyle is a busy one. On his to do list is radio, sports, and finally television. When it comes time to shoot footage for Park's "Northland News," Kosednar is the man behind the camera. Even though he says he prefers radio, and hasn't had enough time to get the feel for television, Kosednar says he

thinks being an athlete has given him certain advantages.

"I know where the action is," he explains. "I know all the right spots to be in to get all the perfect shots and angles. From watching the first 10 minutes of a game, I'll know who the players are that are going to get the ball, and I'll stand by them so I can get the good stuff. Otherwise, you just stand in one spot and only get the shots that come to you."

Kosednar looks ready to go. He has unzipped his backpack and gathered up his notebook and pencil. They're in his hands and ready to load as soon as he gets the word that class is over. It's hard to say whether he'll be on his way to cover a game, play one, or discuss the score on the air, but one thing is certain – Sean Kosednar isn't going to run out of things to do any time soon.

Flip-flops and cargo shorts do not mean 'it's five o'clock somewhere' to student-athlete Sean Kosednar

Kosednar at the TV station.
Photo/Tessa Elwood





Photo courtesy of University Advancement

Couple brings Comfort

...to kids looking for place to just have fun

BY COURTNEY COOK

The smell of rain permeates the air as kids flood through the front door of Mark and Mimi Comfort's home in Platte City, Mo. Mimi sits on the stairs, near the door, and greets them with a warm smile as they run in from dodging the freshly falling sprinkles. Excitement fills the entry way as girls dressed with swimming suits over their clothes giggle and crowd together.

The house, empty 30 minutes earlier, is now bustling with close to 80 students from Platte County High School. Shouts of, "Welcome to Young Life," bounce off

the entry way walls. Scurrying feet, shrieking girls, wrestling boys, and fast paced conversations may be too much for some couples after a long day, but Mimi says for her and Mark it's a dream.

Anxious students' crowd into their basement, as the music starts. "I'll be there for you, when the rain starts to pour. I'll be there for you, like I've been there before," emerges from their lips. Mimi sits on the edge of the pool table grinning and swaying to the beat of the music. An hour later, as Young Life club is wrapping up, Mimi speaks from the back of the room.

"Next week, everyone bring a friend,"

Mimi says. "If we can get 120 kids here next week, we'll get everyone McDonald's."

Mark and Mimi Comfort have been married for 29 years and for those 29 years their involvement in the lives of others has not slowed down. Since the beginning of their marriage they have been sponsoring a missionary family in Albania. Mimi says Bill and Marty Phipps' main ministry is Jewish Connection which reaches the Jewish people for Christ. Much of the Phipps ministry has been in Albania and in that part of Europe, Mimi says, but they have traveled all over the world with Full Gospel

Businessmen.

Two years after being married, Mark and Mimi became emergency foster parents taking children into their home for up to six months at a time. Their first two foster children were two and three year olds named Misty and Tony. Mimi said she remembered them falling out of bed all the time.

"We didn't know how to take care of children," she said, "but we sure did love them."

Mimi says her most unforgettable memory, in all their years as foster parents, was a boy who lived with them. She says he was "absolutely precious" but when he went to bed he would have horrible nightmares and scream in his sleep.

"I only went to a court hearing once," Mimi said. "It broke my heart."

Mimi says the judge determined the child should live with his grandmother. Mimi says she assumed the grandmother was abusing him because he just cried and cried and hung onto her, not wanting to go with his grandmother.

Although Mimi says she and Mark have been impacted by all of their foster children, these two memories were the ones that stood out most in her mind. Even after Mark and Mimi had their own two children, Andrea and Spencer, they continued to take in foster children. Thirty-five children and 22 years later

they had turned in their key as foster parents but their involvement with children was hardly over.

Mark and Mimi moved from Weatherby Lake to Platte City in 1996. When they built their home in Platte City, Mimi said they designed the basement to be big and open with the desire to accommodate a lot of children. At that point Mimi said they did not know what was in store for them.

Mimi says their initiation to Young Life caught them off guard their daughter Andrea's sophomore year of high school when she planned a sleepover. To Mark and Mimi's surprise, Mimi says, 50 kids showed up that night. Since 1997, their involvement in Young Life has grown immensely.

Mimi defined Young Life as a ministry which reaches out to kids just as they are. She says a lot of Young Life kids have never set foot in church and they see the love of God in practical ways when the leaders care about them and go to their functions. Sometimes the Young Life leader is the only one there watching them at their functions at school Mimi said.

"Young Life is about being a Christian and still having fun," Mimi says. "It's about changing families forever."

Mark and Mimi have been part of the Young Life family for close to 10 years. In those 10 years, Mimi says the

experience that has impacted she and Mark the most has been their daughter Andrea's complete life turn. Mimi said she was going down the wrong path, making poor decisions, but after her involvement with Young Life, she became a new person. Mimi also says there are certain kids who are put on their hearts every year who they would like to see go to Young Life camp.

"We try to send kids to camp who we think really need it; two to three a year," Mimi says.

Young Life leaders and parents find this contribution generous. Last year the cost of camp for Platte County students was \$525 and it rises slightly every year.

April 15, 2006, a Platte County senior and an active member of Young Life, David Scheetz, was killed in an automobile accident. Mark and Mimi made bumper stickers saying, "Buckle Up For David" with the Young Life logo in the corner. Mimi says the bumper stickers would not only get the word out about Young Life, but, more importantly, would be a reminder for students to buckle up. Mimi, along with the help of a few old and current Young Life leaders, handed the bumper stickers out at Platte County's 2006 graduation.

Not only are Mark and Mimi actively involved in the lives of many Platte County students, they also own Cruise



Photo/Michael Westblade

The monument at the entrance to Comfort Field, the baseball facility of Park University.

Holidays and Comfort Tours at I-29 and 72nd Street in Kansas City. Mimi says they have been involved in the cruise industry for 19 years and have been located at the 72nd Street building since 1996, making it their fourth business home. Owning the businesses has created a busy schedule for them both, Mimi says. Last year alone, Mimi says she was gone for a total of eight weeks while Mark was gone 12.

As well as owning a business, Mimi says that she and Mark are actively involved in several ministries in their church. Mark and Mimi have been attending the Vineyard since 1996.

"We like the fact that people can come as they are," Mimi says. "There is no pretense."

Young Life and church ministries are not the only activities in which Mark and Mimi are involved. Mimi says she and

Mark have given money to help build an orphanage in the Philippines and South Africa. A teen pregnancy center in Peru also sees some of Mark and Mimi's finances. A good friend of Mark's brother and sister-in-law, Bill Carr, is involved with Child Reach Ministries, Mimi says. He told the couple how teenagers who turn up pregnant in Peru are highly ostracized. She and Mark's contribution helps with the upkeep of a home in Peru which ministers to teens helping them see the love of Christ, Mimi says.

In a modest office at the back of the Cruise Holidays building, Mimi sits at her wooden desk, sunlight shining through the open window, with a smile on her face as she talks about her and Mark's love for children. Stories of the Young Life kids who fill their house weekly cause her to giggle as she recollects memories both past and present. Mimi says she ran into a

friend at the YMCA recently who had heard the Comforts were planning to move from their current home in Platte City.

"We can't move; not as long as they have Young Life," Mimi says. "We're where they have it."

From the beginning of their life together, Mark and Mimi vowed if they were blessed financially that they would give their money away. She says they know they have been blessed. A lesson they have learned, she says, is if you're faithful in the little, you'll be faithful in the much.

'Young Life is about being a Christian and still having fun...It's about changing families forever.'

An alumni shares his memories...

A Parkville life amid 67 years of racial change

BY STACY WIEDMAIER

Robert Dixon sits in his Parkville living room located on West Street while a pair of reading glasses rests on his head. Yet another pair of glasses is placed on the dark wood coffee table before him. Dixon is African American, and has seen with his own eyes how far the Parkville community has come since the days of segregation.

Dixon was born in 1940, and has chosen to remain in Parkville his entire life, although many of his friends and neighbors have migrated to nearby areas for economic opportunities. As an only child, his family home stood on the hill behind his current residence which he built in 1969 for himself and his mother.

When Dixon was a small child, state law required the education of black children, but prohibited the education of black and white children in the same school. As a result, Dixon attended grade school next door to his family residence in a two room schoolhouse named Banneker School No. 2. The school was one classroom, while the other room was used for recreation.

Only one teacher was present to instruct 25 to 30 pupils.

"We had nothing to compare this experience with at the time, because it was all we had been exposed to; all that we were familiar with," Dixon says. "There were children from the first through eighth grades learning in the same room. Growing up, I only had black friends. We saw whites, but there was never any integration culturally. The areas from West Street to 13th was where all the black families lived. Parkville is such a small town that you were able to know everyone. You knew the whites, but you rarely mixed socially."

The elementary school previously used strictly for black children in the Parkville School District was Banneker School No. 1 located on 8th Street. This tiny brick structure was built in 1885 and housed as many as 80 students at one time. It was replaced in 1902 by the larger Banneker



Photo/Stacy Wiedmaier

Robert Dixon, long-time Parkville resident.

No. 2. Both structures are still standing; Banneker No. 1 is now abandoned, but several attempts to restore it as a museum have failed. Banneker No. 2 is a private residence.

The black population in Parkville at the turn of the 20th Century was nearly 20 percent. Since Park College hired black workers and sold them lots for homes at reasonable prices, blacks gravitated to Parkville for these opportunities rarely afforded in other nearby towns. There is little evidence that black residents were intentionally segregated in Parkville's residential areas, but a strong black community quickly developed along West Street.

During Dixon's high school education

he attended many different schools, each for a different reason. Until 1956 the Park Hill School District was segregated. This meant black students in the Parkville area were forced to ride the Greyhound bus across Kansas City to reach Lincoln High School. Many students did not attend, whether as necessity or as a choice.

"A lot of my friends I grew up with didn't attend high school at all," Dixon says. "Many were from large families and needed to get started in the work force. My parents were big proponents of education, so not attending high school was never an option. They had the expectation that I would attend college too.

"Lincoln High was an all-black school, so that's where I had to go. It was a huge adjustment since I was familiar with a very small school that I had just left. I got on the Greyhound bus at 6:30 in the morning every school day. Parkville's bus station was at 12th and Main Streets, so I rode from there to 10th and Magee where I got off. I had to walk another few blocks to catch the streetcar at 18th and Troost. I attended Lincoln for two years."

When Dixon was a junior, his mother encouraged him to switch schools and attend Manuel High School which was integrated. This new experience awarded Dixon his first opportunity to meet and attend school with people of many races. Manuel High had a heavy concentration of Latin, Black, and Italian students.

"There was a good mixture of races here and I could interact with these new friends on a day to day basis," Dixon says. "It was the first time I was able to see everyone treated as equals, because we were all just seen as students."

A huge change in public education occurred before Dixon was a senior in high school. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court reached the historic decision which made it unlawful to segregate children by race in the United States public school system. This case had been fought as early as 1951 in Topeka, Kan., when the NAACP recruited black parents in Topeka for a class action suit against the local school board.

The U.S. District Court for the district of Kansas heard the NAACP's argument which stated, "segregated schools sent the message to black children that they were inferior to whites, therefore the schools were inherently unequal." The Board of Education's defense centered on their opinion that "segregated schools simply prepared black children for the segregation they would face during adulthood." They argued segregated schools were "not harmful to black children." The Judge ruled in favor of the Board of Education,

which led to the NAACP's appeal to the Supreme Court where the ruling was overturned.

The NAACP's original objective in filing this suit was to end the "separate but equal" mentality throughout every segment of society, including public transportation, dining facilities, public schools, and all forms of public accommodation. This change was yet to take place until the Civil Rights movement began and the controversy of race discrimination was brought to the forefront.

The Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision did not require desegregation of public schools by any specific date. Instead, the final document only stated, "schools be integrated with all deliberate speed." Even though the Supreme Court ruled in favor of integration in May 1954, the Park Hill School District remained segregated until 1956.

Dixon spent his senior year at Park Hill High School where he encountered a few problems with this new integrated environment.

"Opinions varied widely around the area, but the school board said, 'It's now the law of the land and we have to abide by it,'" recalls Dixon. "Parkville had few problems, but this varied from town to town. Liberty had a large black population at the time and they had no problems because of that influence; the majority were in favor of it. But the smaller towns like Smithville made a huge fight out of this, mainly because there were no blacks there.

"For the first two or three years after integration, we would travel to Smithville for high school football games where we competed against them. There was a real animosity towards us and it was enough to warrant the presence of the Highway Patrol. My friends would be running the football down the field and there were racial slurs yelled at them by the Smithville fans. It felt like everyone there was antagonistic and anti-integration."

After spending one year studying at Kansas City's Junior College, he decided to attend the local Park College where he continued living at home and walked to class daily.

While majoring in history, Dixon held many jobs at the college to help pay for his tuition. He worked 12 hours a week in different capacities, which included janitor, cafeteria dishwasher, and dining room cashier. He spent one entire summer carrying bedroom furniture up the stairs to occupy the newly built Dearing Hall. He graduated in December of 1964.

Dixon has held many professional jobs during his life, including working in the

Park College mailroom and later managing the bookstore. In Spring 1965, a friend from Park contacted him with the news of an employment opportunity to work for Grayber electrical wholesale. He was told how Grayber was looking to hire their first minority person and he decided to accept this position. He stayed more than 16 years.

In 1984 he started The Regeney Travel Agency at 104 Main Street in Parkville. He sold Regeney 10 years later while he worked on another business venture with three partners. They had decided to try their skills in a convenience store business. They named this convenience store "Please Stop" which they decided to sell April 10, 2006.

Dixon has seen many changes occur in Parkville during his residency, especially the city's population growth.

"Even though the city of Parkville has grown, its black population has not," Dixon says. "There used to be around 100 blacks in this community, but now there are fewer than 20. We have gone from a small town to a suburban community.

"The city boundaries used to be defined from the river's edge and north to the two cemeteries on Highway 9. There was never anything past 13th Street, but now that area is taking off. There has never been a free-standing bar here, but only the restaurants which have food on the menu too. If you want a drink, you've always had to go over to Riverside.

"There was never a sewage line on West Street until 1968. When I built my current home in 1969, it was the first time I had central plumbing. You used to go outside to your outhouse in the middle of a cold December night while you carried a lantern and the Sears Catalog."

In Parkville, as late as 1960, "persons of color" could not be seated at the drug store or get their hair cut in town. The city has come a long way since, and Dixon said he is glad he stayed around to see the changes.

"Growing up in Parkville, you could hardly wait to leave," Dixon said. "I never left and I'm glad I didn't. The choices I've made and the opportunities I've had here have been rewarding. Overall, I think Parkville has always had the influence of the university. This has made us different from nearby smaller towns. The school has pulled this city into the 21st Century at a fast pace."

'It was the first time I was able to see everyone treated as equals, because we were all just seen as students.'

PARK PROFILE

BY CHRIS DOERING

For over forty-two years the dream has existed. Carol L. Peterson has always had a passion for teaching waiting to be fulfilled. Now a senior education major at Park University, the dream is close to a reality.

Although her path to teaching students in her own classroom has been a long one, it has also proven to be beneficial. Forty-seven years of life experiences and a true value for education are attributes not many first year teachers possess. Peterson hopes to turn her enthusiasm and experiences into a long, successful teaching career.

"Actualizing a dream is intense, and hoping you're really going to make it is a feeling like no other," Peterson said. "I played school when I was five years old and have wanted to teach ever since."

Play school turned into reality and Peterson graduated high school in 1976. Her desire was still to become a teacher. Due to the poor job market and teacher lay-offs of the time, her guidance counselor rejected the idea and talked her into a different career path. A year after completing high school Peterson attended community college with the goal of working in the computer industry. Quickly realizing a career in computers was not for her, teaching was once again her aspiration. The problem now was finding the time and permanence to do so.

Due to her husband's job as the Senior Manager of the Pet Segment, the family relocated many times. Seven moves in roughly twenty years made it nearly impossible for Peterson to be a full time student. She has

in education.

"My husband has always pushed me to get a degree," Peterson said. "My whole family supports me and is impressed with my stick-with-it attitude."

Teaching middle school is something Peterson has wanted to do since she was sixteen years old. Her experiences in Park's education department have led her to the specialized area of mathematics. Algebra is her true love, but the middle school age-group, not the mathematical content is what funnels Peterson

"I believe in a classroom allowing the students to feel comfortable and safe. I want my students to know that it's okay to answer a problem wrong."

towards the sixth through eighth grade students.

Making sure my students learn something that they can use for themselves is important to me," said Peterson. "I would be happy teaching math to sixth, seventh, or eighth graders."

Currently absorbed in her teaching practicum at Maple Park Middle School, Peterson is responsible for 60 hours of observation and involvement throughout the semester. She is working in a sixth grade classroom

Peterson had a whirlwind of emotions rushing through her body. Her task of introducing the cooperative learning activity to the class brought about nerves and the shakes. Still, she said she remained collected, confident, and in control during the instruction. The lesson was completed to Peterson's satisfaction as she judged its success by all the hands in the air and the "I get it" look on their faces.

"I have taught and coached swimming for 12 years, and I used to teach art to third and fourth graders once a month in California,"

said Peterson. "Coaching swimming, teaching art, or giving a presentation to a group of college students is nothing compared to my first time teaching sixth graders."

Peterson said all education majors need to get into a real classroom environment as soon as possible, and that college students learn the most through hands on interactions with the students.

"Student teaching next semester will be the greatest learning experience of all, and I want to put my skills to use," Peterson said. "I believe in a

classroom allowing the students to feel comfortable and safe. I want my students to know that it's okay to answer a problem wrong. Providing them with confidence and opportunities to open doors is important to me."

When her first day of teaching finally comes and the students enter into Mrs. Peterson's room for the first time, she will admittedly be nervous and excited. The years of waiting and wondering will at last be over, and it will finally be time to do what she has

CAROL L. PETERSON

taken classes at community colleges across the United States. The family began in Michigan and moved to Kansas, Arizona, Missouri, Pennsylvania, California, and back to Missouri again. Peterson, her husband Steve, and their three children settled in the Kansas City, Missouri area four years ago. They have decided to stay long enough so she can attend Park University and earn her bachelor's degree

and said she has established great rapport with her cooperating teacher Myrna Williams.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to try out my own ideas and strategies with the students," Peterson said.

"I have been actively involved in the class since the first day in the building, and I quickly jumped in helping the students."

During her first lesson with an entire class,

always wanted to do. Teach.

"Carol is satisfying goals she set for herself," Peterson's professor, Dr. Ann Wentz, said. "She is energetic, personable, and has a lot of empathy for the middle school age group. She will be a very good teacher."

Park Profile

Animal lover, Park student and Austin Police volunteer

BY SHONTAIL LEWIS



Amy J. Gross enjoys her dual role in the furry and human communities. This United States Army veteran graduated from Park University -- Austin last spring while working full-time at a local animal shelter and volunteering with the Austin Police Department's Victim Services. Today she works for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Gross wasn't born in the USA; she was born in South Korea in 1966 and adopted by her American parents at the age of three. "I don't remember anything about South Korea," Gross admits.

Gross grew up in several states in America. She says she lived in Pennsylvania for about five years, Massachusetts about five and then their family moved to Orlando, Florida in 1979. Gross enlisted in the United States Army right after graduating from high school in 1984. She found herself stationed in South Korea where she took the opportunity to locate the orphanage where she lived before adoption in the hopes of locating her biological parents. The search ended at the orphanage where she found they had nothing on record about her parents. But, that did not completely disappoint her. She says she could, at least, say she tried to find them.

Gross also saw many parts of the United States while serving in the Army before she and Karen, her partner, settled in Austin where they now reside.

After moving to Austin, she not only became a Park student, she became an employee of the City of Austin's animal shelter often doing more than is required, like assisting with the human and animal victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"I've always loved working and being around animals," Gross said. "I work at the animal shelter because I love working with animals. Animals have always been a passion of mine. I guess it's because they

Amy Gross and a canine victim of Hurricane Katrina.

don't have a 'voice' to tell us what is going on with them.

"We humans have to be that voice in order for animals to have a fighting chance. I see animals as little people, but in fur coats. I think that part of humanity means to be not only humane to each other, but to our animal friends, no matter the species."

During Hurricane Katrina and Rita the local animal shelter assisted the human and animal victims.

"We worked with the Humane Society who took in animal victims of Katrina, so we worked with them to get the animals housed," said Gross. "We would transport the animals for the owners to the Humane Society."

Gross admits the efforts were more organized during Hurricane Rita, however, they were able to assist victims of both hurricanes by setting up high schools and other schools as shelters.

"During Hurricane Rita, we would go out and set up those areas, have people manning those shelters either with volunteers or regular staff," she explains, "We ran it twenty-four seven and as the evacuees were leaving and we were shutting those shelters down then we'd go out there and take everything down."

"We monitored the animals, we wrote down who they belonged to, descriptions, each one was numbered, so that way we know which animal went with which evacuee," Gross said.

"The main point where everybody came in was at the Austin Convention Center. That's where everybody came in, everybody was processed in through there, then they were bussed to their school."

"People's whose pets were kept at the Humane Society, what we did is we provided a shuttle service. We would pick them up in a city van and drive them up to the Humane Society to visit with their pets for a few hours, and then drive them back to their shelter," explained Gross.

Gross says she sympathized with the victims. As pet owners, she and her partner consider their pets 'kids'. Their kids are Harley, a black and white Great Dane who is almost age 3, and EZ age 18, Kasey age 12, Allie age 7 and Serendipity age 6. The four siblings get along well with Harley despite being cats.

Serendipity got her name because of how she came to join their family.

"The last one we got from the Humane Society as a stray on their back door in a Rubber Maid bin," Gross

explains, "We discovered her when we returned a foster puppy, Marvin—we found Serendipity, Sere for short."

Gross says she had her first working experience with animals while living in Florida.

"I've always loved working and being around animals," Gross says with no hesitation, "My adopted parents had dogs, while I was growing up, but when I was in junior high I worked at our family vet back in Orlando." Her family veterinarian was Dr. Robert Conness, DVM.

Gross says she worked with Dr. Conness for 3-and-a-half years before she went into the service.

Gross joined her partner in the Fort Hood area, and a year later, when her partner completed her term in the Army, they moved to Austin, Texas. Gross says it is a place she and Karen had always wanted to live.

"It's a great place to live, so many

"Whether you work with animals or volunteer, I think that one should always act humanely."

different things to do, a lot of live music venues, a lot of different shows," Gross explains and then she says with a lift in her voice, "It's always something going on."

Gross wanted to further her education but she was unsure of which higher education institution to pursue.

"Well see, Austin has the University of Texas, that's their big school here and then we have several others, private schools there," Gross said. "We found Park through a friend of ours who had gone to the school."

"I love going to Park," Gross says without hesitation. "I think the main thing I like about Park is the small classes. They're very informal, but yet they still give you a little bit more personalized attention—it's what I was looking for and, I think because they are smaller classes, you get to know other students a little bit better than you would if you were going to a large university like UT."

"UT, you're gonna have several hun-

dred students in one class. At Park, the instructors are a little more relaxed and you get more one-on-one time with the instructors if you need."

Park Austin offers accelerated, eight-week, semesters, which has allowed Gross to attend school while working full time, which turned out to be more than shadowing for a career.

"I originally started out as a volunteer with Victim Services to determine if it was a field I want to pursue as a profession," Gross admits. "Now, I see it as something much more than that. I started out as somebody who was on the outside looking in. Now I am on the opposite side of that glass and experiencing a whole new world."

"I find the time I volunteer rewarding, not so much for me, but for the victim in need. I am glad to be a part of the healing process, especially the beginning part, which can be the most crucial part. I am so glad that the police department has this program in place and that it is a 24-hour service, because when you think about it, tragedies do not take holidays and victims need to know there are people out there who are willing to help from the onset of that tragedy."

Close associates and friends agree separately she is doing work which fits her personality. "I have probably known Amy since about '87-'88 and she enjoys what she does," says Edna R. Schwab, her partner's mother. "She likes to do whatever she can and she loves animals and cares for people."

"Amy with animals really makes her personality shine," says Mark A. Wilkerson, a friend she met in the Army. "I couldn't work with euthanizing animals, but Amy has that personality."

"Amy's my best friend. I've known her for 20 years and she's probably one of the best people I know—good heart, caring, trusting, too much—I think," says Debbie D. Rainey. "She's one of the people that will give you the shirt off her back—authentic."

Gross says she is sure about who and why people should work with animals and or volunteer.

"I think that if you want to help animals or volunteer stop to think, 'Is this something I really want to do?' Don't think of it in terms of what you will get out of it," Gross explains. "Whether you work with animals or volunteer, I think that one should always act humanely."

DUSTIN J. KERNS

Park Profile

BY CHRIS DOERING

An alarm buzzes in the middle of the night. It is not the alarm clock screaming to get up for class. It is the fire department pager lying next to the bed. It is time to get up even though the lifeless alarm clock still has four more hours of silence programmed into it. Welcome to the life of Park University senior Dustin J. Kerns.

Kerns may be the man to save your life someday. He is also Santa Claus, a teacher, and a skilled cook. An extra hour or two added on to the end of each day seems only fitting for a guy like Kerns.

His time consuming dedications to the community and its children have earned him this well deserved bonus.

"All the good things Dustin

does are done naturally," said Kerns' professor, Betty Bennett. "He wants to be involved in the community and make as many positive connections as he can."

Is he a hero? To some a hero must wear a cape and leap tall buildings in a single bound. Others may say that being a hero requires saving a life or leading a group of people to safety. Kerns does not wear a cape or fly through the air. He is simply a man who gives his time and efforts for the sake of a better cause.

Kerns began contributing to the community at an early age. When he turned 16-years-old he decided to join his local volunteer fire department, West Platte Fire Protection District.

The department didn't have anyone to help them, so I decided to join up,"

Kerns said. "I took the training classes at South Platte Station 1, and I'm on my fifth year of volunteering. It's still a rush when we hop in the truck and start the sirens up."

The volunteer fire department is located near Kerns' hometown of Weston, Mo. This town of about 1,600 people has been

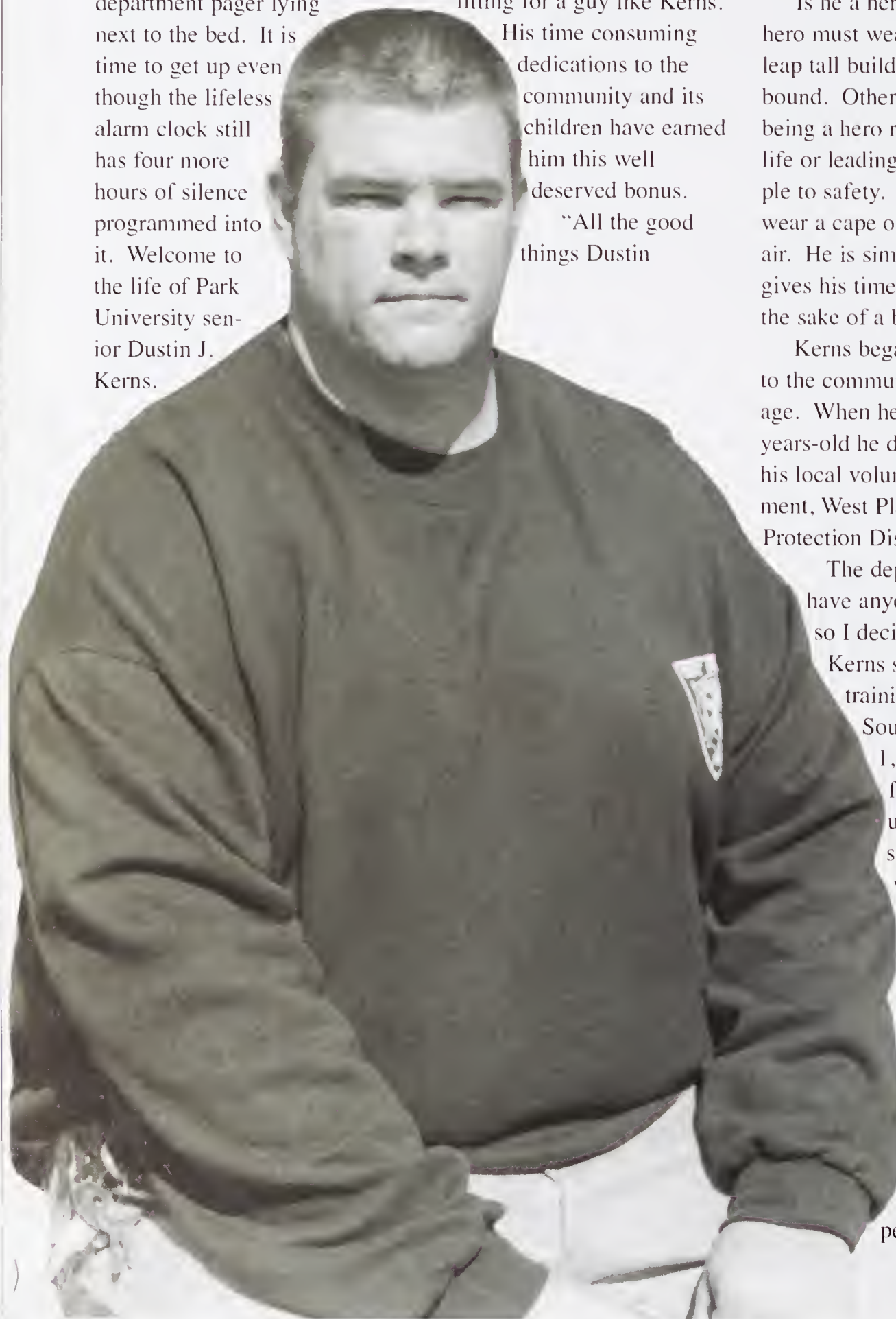
called home for all of his 21 years. Every year the fire station receives an average of 80 to 90 emergency calls. Being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the department keeps Kerns on his toes at all times. His fire alarm pager has been known to go off in the middle of the night. Even though Kerns may have school the next day, he said he tries to answer the calls and respond at every opportunity.

"Being in a small town, nobody may show up," Kerns said. "I feel like I have to go no matter if it's to an accident scene or a house fire."

Kerns said responding to an accident scene does not bother him, although on gruesome ones he tends to stay back and help with supplies or traffic. Fire calls are the ones to bring a feeling of mystery and anticipation.

"You never know what you are going to see when responding to a fire," said Kerns. "Luckily, 95 percent of fire alarms are false alarms. Still, I'm ready to be the heroic guy who runs into the burning building and saves the people."

Kerns has been inside burning buildings, but has never had to rescue someone from an inferno. His department only sees two or three house fires every year, and the majority of fires are either grass fires or "old structure" fires.



P A R K P R O F I L E

Kerns can not make it to every emergency call, and he said many calls happen when he is attending classes at Park University.

Kerns is a full time elementary education student with aspirations of teaching second grade. Teaching and working with kids is something he has wanted to do since he was young. Aside from the mandatory observations and schoolwork, Kerns has had many experiences working with children. He has been a substitute teacher for over a year and has taught elementary school and high school at Weston and Platte City High Schools.

"I really wanted to substitute teach and make sure education is what I really wanted to do," Kerns said. "I have taught English in a LD (learning disabled) room and in the I.S.S. (in school suspension) room. I feel like I have done it all and definitely still like helping kids."

Teaching has only been a part of Kerns' interactions with children. During the Christmas season he dresses up as Santa Claus. Kerns and his red suit have traveled to nursing homes, the fire department, and answered personal requests to appear as Santa at local homes. Many kids have made it to the fire department and received gifts from the white-bearded Kerns. He even visited a sick, bed-bound 15-year-old boy who was perhaps experiencing his last Christmas. Kerns brought the boy and his mother gifts and he said he tried to lift their spirits.

"I went to the very same house during the next Christmas season," said Kerns. "The boy was still alive and had survived to see another Christmas. Seeing that definitely made me feel good inside. I have always enjoyed being around kids and want to help them succeed."

Children are not the only ones to benefit from Kerns' dedication and generosity. During his junior and senior years of high school, he spent half of every school day at a vocational college studying culinary arts.

"I love to cook for people, and wanted to do it professionally," said Kerns. "The price of a formal education in culinary arts was too expensive though. Hopefully, I can go back and complete two more years once I am teaching and have summers off."

He has cooked for Eastern Star at a lodge for a group of 75 people. Kerns said his smoked ribs and homemade peach cobbles were a hit with the crowd. Baking is something he

likes to do, and cake decorating, he says, is a specialty.

His cooking talents have come in handy on more than one occasion. Kerns' football team won the state championship during his senior year of high school. A starting offensive lineman for the team, Kerns was happy the years of hard work had paid off. To celebrate and contribute to the festivities, he began to make the team a huge football field cake. The cake decorating was interrupted when a familiar buzzer sounded.

"My fire department pager went off around 7 p.m. when I was making our cake," Kerns remembered. "I was out on the call until 5 in the morning. Luckily, the cake turned out, and we still got to celebrate our title."

As well as teaching, cooking, and fighting fires, Kerns has many more activities on his busy schedule. Every Tuesday and Thursday night, he volunteers to open up Weston's small workout facility from 6 to 8 p.m. It is free to use and Kerns said he and his brother enjoy opening it up.

"It's no Gold's Gym or anything, but people use it and enjoy it," said Kerns.

He also runs a small lawn mowing service around Weston.

"I used to have about 15 lawns, but now I only have 5," Kerns said. "I don't have the time to mow a whole lot, and my little Lawn Boy push mower is not very fast. I do it to help out and for a little extra money for gas."

Any time not spent at school or at one of his obligations, Kerns can normally be found helping his dad. His dad is self-employed and does construction deals and odd jobs around Weston. The family is well known around town.

"I have known the Kerns family for 30 years and they are all wonderful people," said Bennett. "Dustin especially makes you feel good just being around him."

With all the time Kerns extends to others, he does find time for himself. His 1971 Chevy Nova restoration project is a main hobby that allows for some peace and quiet. Still, the quiet could be interrupted at any time. Someone may need his help and he will undoubtedly respond without any second thoughts.

"Dustin is truly an unsung hero," said Gail Hennessy, Kerns' professor. "People like him go through the university unnoticed. He is a young man that needs to be noticed for all the right reasons."

*"Dustin is
truly
an
unsung
hero"*

-- Hennessy



PARK PROFILE

BY TESSA RENEE ELWOOD

Paige Hunsberger leaned back in her chair after forty minutes of conversation. She had been discussing how difficult it was to change the culture of police officers. Then she paused, eyes focused inward. "I mean when you think about it," she said in a slow voice, "it's like...wow. Ten years ago I was watching Sesame Street – rollin' Play-doh and now I'm contemplating the cosmos." She began to laugh.

Ten years ago Hunsberger was 32, a stay at home mom raising two children: Matthew, 5 and Jessica, 12. After two years of college she quit school to get married and was dedicating her full attention to her family. Four years later Hunsberger was divorced. Even though she filed, Hunsberger wanted the marriage to last. "I really wish we were still together," she said, "I think it would be better for the kids to live as a family."

Her husband takes their son every other weekend, and while he does not provide any money for his daughter's college education, he inadvertently spurred Hunsberger to return to school.

Hunsberger worked as a police officer after the divorce, taking odd shifts to support her family. "I was on the p.m. shift," explained Hunsberger, "and my ex-husband was supposed to pick up Matthew, but he never did. So I came home one night around one o'clock in the morning and there was my 10-year-old, bopping around the neighborhood by himself. I said 'oh no, we're not having any of this.' You know, I've spent my whole life being a stay at home mom, and I feel very strongly if you have kids you raise them. So I quit being a police officer and came back to school because my children are my first priority."

college with both feet. During her first semester she saw a flyer for the Park Honors program, and decided to join. Hunsberger said "I felt since I'm older, anything I could do to make myself more marketable was a good idea."

In the honors program, students can develop their own projects. Hunsberger's project idea came from experience on the police force. "When I was in the police family, talk about dysfunction – police officers are very dysfunctional as people. It interested me whether the people who become police officers would be the way they are even if they were plumbers or electricians, or if it's the job that makes them dysfunctional from what they see and what they experience."

To answer the question, Hunsberger put together an anonymous survey on the coping skills of police officers. Robyn Gershon of John Hopkins University did a similar survey in Baltimore, Maryland, between 1997-1999. Hunsberger based many of her questions on Gershon's study, in order to build a comparison. They dealt with domestic violence, alcoholism, and how police officers deal with stress, drugs, depression and suicide.

Once the survey was written, getting it to the target audience "was a nightmare." Hunsberger sent the survey to a Midwest police department in May 2005. She also sent a copy to the Institutional Review Board, who has a right to veto projects they consider unethical. The board took nearly three months to decide Hunsberger's survey did not require their approval.

In August 2005 the surveys were printed and sent to the police department. The day after their delivery, the department called Hunsberger. They could not distribute the sur-

PAIGE HUNSBERGER

But even under the circumstances, Hunsberger was not sorry to quit the force. "Being a police officer is a thankless job," she said. "You're being called to someone's house at worst time in their lives. They've just been burglarized, they've just been molested, they're angry, they're hurt and they take it out on you. Talk about being verbally abused, I was called things I had never even heard of before."

Six months after leaving the police force, Hunsberger began her first semester at Park University, in the spring of 2004. To supplement the income loss, she cleans houses and teaches grade school as a substitute. Between these activities, Hunsberger goes to her grandfather's house each morning and gets him up, showered, dressed and fed. Her grandfather's illness is primarily due to age, and Hunsberger spends what spare time she has helping her mother care for him.

Even with these responsibilities, Hunsberger jumped into

veys, they said, because the legal department had not seen them, even though the surveys had been sitting in the department since May. The lawyers took five months to approve the survey, which was finally distributed on January 17, 2006. Hunsberger is now in the process of collecting completed surveys and the police department is interested in seeing the results.

The Honors committee made a special exception and allowed Hunsberger to graduate with honors in December, even though her project was not finished. "I had done all the work," said Hunsberger, "and I guess they felt it wasn't through any fault of mine things had not been done on time. And since I was going to be in the masters program – they knew where they could find me."

Hunsberger is working towards a Masters of Public Affairs in between honors and her most recent project,

PARK PROFILE

PAIGE HUNSBERGER



the Inside-Out program. Inside-Out, implemented during 2005, is a course held at Leavenworth penitentiary with 14 Park students and 14 prisoners.

Carol Getty, head of Park's criminal justice department, instructs the class with Hunsberger as an assistant teacher.

The program was founded by Lori Pompa of

Temple University. Pompa would take her students on tours of a local prison, and on one such tour an inmate suggested the idea of having a class with prisoners and students. Pompa made the idea a reality by creating the Inside-Out program. According to the Temple University website, the program began in 1997 with backing from both Temple and the Philadelphia Prison System. After the program was fully established, Pompa began to hold training workshops for instructors from other universities who wanted to implement the program.

Carol Getty was interested in bringing Inside-Out to Park. She had worked for 18 years in the criminal justice system, and wanted to develop her own approach for teaching inmates and students together. From the beginning Getty knew she could not teach the class alone, and Hunsberger had the age and experience needed for an assistant teacher.

Getty knew Hunsberger as an "enthusiastic and intelligent" student. "I had many students who could do the job," said Getty, "but Paige had the right timing and interest." Hunsberger's December graduation was an important factor in Getty's decision. Getty felt it would be awkward for an undergraduate to switch from being a fellow student in one class period to "bossing the other students around" in the next.

Getty feels the Inside-Out program can greatly benefit Park students. "There's a big difference from reading to seeing," said Getty, "a much better experience and understanding you can't get from a textbook or television."

Hunsberger agrees. "It's a great experience for the college kids, because prisons are closed. They don't like to have people come through them. So for the kids to get to see actually what a prison looks like and to meet with actual inmates, I think is very valuable. It also gives them some sense of balance. I want the kids to understand you don't get sent to federal prison just because you shaved your eyebrow the wrong way. You have to do something to be sent there."

Both Getty and Hunsberger see benefits for the inmates as well, such as getting the prisoners out of their mundane routine and providing outside conversation. But Hunsberger thinks it could go even further.

"Hopefully the guys in prison will take something away with them, and can see we are not there to judge them, put them down, or condemn them further. Maybe it will change the way somebody thinks, and when they get out maybe it will encourage them to go to college and to change their ways. I don't know,

that's what we're hopin'."

Whether or not the Inside-Out program can have life-changing effects on inmates is still unknown. No statistical research has been done, as many of the inmates in the program were sentenced for life. Hunsberger hopes to fill some of the gap with her masters thesis, which will contain pre-test and post-test research of all students for the next two semesters. Further research would require a grant, and while Hunsberger could not do the research herself, she feels the results would be worthwhile. "It would be awesome to have money to follow the people who have been through the Inside-Out program, once they were released, to see if it made a difference," Hunsberger said.

Making a difference is a difficult task. "People commit crime," explains Hunsberger. "They get sent away to prison, and they're liars. They lie to their families and sometimes steal from their families. So when they get out of prison, especially if they've been in and out several times, their families have been burnt so many times they refuse to help. We put all these constraints on inmates, and when they come out they have no support system. So they do what they know, and what they know is crime."

Most of the inmates in Hunsberger's experience leave prison with good intentions, then fall back into crime within a few years. Yet Hunsberger feels as a society we have to try and make a difference.

"These people are going to come back into society sooner or later. They will be moving into the house next to you or down the street from you. I think you have to try to give them tools to work with, whether they take advantage of it or not. You have to make the attempt, and what we are doing is not working."

Hunsberger feels the current criminal justice system is broken, not simply any one part but the whole thing. "We lock people up for twenty years, then let them out and give them nothing. You can't put somebody in an island for twenty years and then ship them back into society. How can they socialize? And technology and computers change, what, every six months? You could buy a new computer and have it be totally different when you got out. If you've been locked away for twenty years you're lucky you know what a computer looks like. I think we need to make some changes, but I don't know how successful we'll be."

Hunsberger doubts she will see change in her lifetime, but she hopes she can be part of a bigger picture. Repairing the system will not be easy, and Hunsberger feels the attitudes and culture of the current law enforcement will have to change before things improve.

Hunsberger explains, "It's like going to some remote village in Zimbabwe somewhere, and trying to take a whole village and change their entire way of life. How do you do that? How do you convince those people they even need to change?"

But even if the magnitude of the task is daunting, Hunsberger feels we should still make the attempt. "It's our responsibility to try. If everybody just looked at the picture and said 'well I can't change anything so I'm not going to try'...wow. We might still be writin' on rocks and getting pulled around by our ponytails. You have to try."

And she does. With each class period in the Inside-Out program, with every hour spent on research for her honors project and master thesis, with her children and helping her grandfather, Paige Hunsberger tries to change what she can for the better.



ART: A WAY OF LIFE



THE ARTS EXPLODE AT PARK UNIVERSITY

*"Wonderful" studio space, theater, music, design...
Art at Park happens from the Underground to Alumni Hall*

BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE
AND RHONDA ASHER

From Alumni Hall to the Underground and back to the Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel, the arts at Park are thriving with the introduction of new faculty members, a healthy influx of new students, and the anticipated construction of new workspaces.

"The arts are in a very big growth mode," says Professor Donna Bachmann,

department chair of art and design, "that includes theater as well as music too. We just approved a bachelor of music degree, a performance-based degree that Dr. Bob Pevitts is leading, that is in conjunction with our master's certificate program and our Youth Conservatory for Music. Our music students are winning international prizes."

On the top floor of Alumni Hall, fine art students fill the studio, working on their latest projects.

"We have one of the most wonderful painting and drawing studios in the city," says Bachmann. "This space, this light, and the flexibility. The privacy, the high ceilings; it's a wonderful studio and the University finally figured out how to air-condition it."

One of the fine arts students' most notable projects were their wooden animal sculptures, which graced the hill above the practice fields each summer. It is also the source of one of Bachmann's favorite

memories as an instructor at Park.

"Two springs ago, I was trying the giant animal project with my 3-D class," Bachmann says. "We studied the anatomy of the animals and gathered wood, and keep in mind this was in the month of May, it was not sunny, it was rainy and nasty. So we got all of our bits and pieces together and we went to the vacant lot next to the ceramic building, it's rainy, it's cold and we have power tools. So I say, 'come on guys let's just bag it. We'll call it conceptual art.' My students said, 'No, no we have to build our animals.'"

"So we're out in the rain, soaked to the skin, with long extension cords, and they built those animals."

Emilio Servigon, senior.





Photo/ Kerie Schaefer
Kim Brosnell
Interior Design Major

"It's stuff like that, when students are so engaged, that is incredibly exciting."

Bachmann says one of the goals of the art department is getting a bachelor of fine arts degree.

"I would like to see the bachelor of fine art, which is a professional degree," says Bachmann. "This would entail not only a better facility but also more faculty. We will need an art historian, another interior designer; we will need another fine arts person. We are doing what you do when you are growing; you have many adjuncts. There are some excellent people teaching part time, but certainly we must consolidate these positions into full time."

According to Bachmann, the only other schools in the area offering such a degree are the KC Art Institute and Avila. "We will be in addition to the KC Art

"One of the things I brought with me was to think more toward advertising," Khawaja says. "We needed to let people know we are here. I formed a local chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, because we need to know what is going on in the graphic design world."

"This is a very active organization. Every week there is a different activity. A student learns more when they immerse themselves in the subject they are trying to learn."

Khawaja. "We are fortunate to have him. We are on the same page."

Khawaja was also able to allocate \$900 to buy new graphic design books for the library.

"We get inspired all day long by things like the jewelry a person is wearing," says Khawaja, "but when I was in school, as soon as I got a project assigned to me, I would go to the library and research it."

Graphic Design students like Cynthia Vreeland, get their inspiration from feedback given by their peers.

"I like how our instructors encourage us to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each other's work and possible solutions," Vreeland says. "It really helps when people other than my instructors give me feedback about my work and I

CHECK OUT



Institute and Avila," says Bachmann; "strangely enough, the only schools to offer a BFA. So, I think we will be able to bring it to another level."

However, the fine arts are only one facet of Park's art repertoire.

"Of the different areas of art, fine art is probably the smallest in terms of numbers," says Bachmann. "Graphic Design has the larger number because there is a much clearer career path. Our graduates can go right out and find jobs."

When Masoom Khawaja, assistant professor of art and design, came to Park in August of 2003, the graphic design program was two small rooms with seven computers and seven students. Now one of those rooms is used for storing supplies and the other houses a printer and a light table.

The graphic design program now has access to room 816 in the Underground, the graphic design lab, filled with 16 brand new G5 Macintosh computers. Khawaja says the lab cost the university \$50,000 to remodel.

ART AT PARK

In an effort to make the graphic design program more noticeable, Khawaja obtained the use of the display cases in the Millsap Foyer to show her students' work. She also helps seniors put on "senior shows" which include a small reception with refreshments where students can invite people to view their work.

Khawaja says the senior shows give students a reason to celebrate their work. In addition to the new lab, Khawaja has also added three classes to the graphic design program: web page design, typography, and the history of graphic design. The requirements for a degree in graphic design have also gone from 54 credits to 69 credits.

Since the program has grown so much, the department has hired a new professor, David King.

"David will raise our standards," says

feel that the emphasis on peer criticism is helping me look at my work in ways that I never thought of before."

According to adjunct teacher, John Sylvester, the recent changes to the program should make Park a real competitor in the graphic design scene.

"It will take a while for Park to gain the reputation as a strong Graphic Design program," Sylvester says, "but with the expanded staff and increased recruitment, it can be a viable choice for students from around the globe."

Another rapidly growing area of art at Park is the theater program, headed by marsha morgan in Alumni Hall.

"This is generally a very exciting time to be an undergraduate in theater at Park," says Mari Jane Peak, adjunct professor of theater. "The department has grown sufficiently and has expanded its theater minor to a major recently. Park's affiliation with the Unicorn Theater provides the students with the opportunity for even more great instruction and exposure to aspects of a first rate professional theater."

But Peak would like to improve other aspects of the theater department at Park. "The catalog of class offerings could expand in literature, theater history, and performance," she explains. "I would also like to begin interdisciplinary collaboration between the theater, English, and radio and television programs. It would be lovely, in the near future, to offer Park's theater students elective courses in performance for radio and television.

"We could collaborate with the creative writing program to give our students the opportunity to perform and produce original material. I'd like to see the addition of a performance class dedicated to Shakespeare and period styles of acting. And more course offerings in children's theater would appeal to our education majors." Ashley Carlson graduated from Park University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in theater performance and directing. She says she was also the first theater major to graduate from the university in about 20 years, highlighting the recent growth the theater department has seen.

"I think the theater program at Park is unique," Carlson says, "because it is so new and still very much in the growth stage. This allowed me to experience aspects of the program that would not have been possible at a larger university." At Park, Carlson performed in five main stage shows and various studio productions. She was also able to direct and participate in the technical aspects of the shows.

"I also think that, due to the size of the program, a very close relationship is formed with the faculty and students. I also feel that my feedback and ideas were highly valued and have been utilized to improve the program.

"Our theater program at Park definitely has room for growth and improvement, but I feel that this fact has allowed me to

into something bigger.

"The strongest selling point for interior design is that we are located within a vibrant architecture and professional design community," Boehr says. "I bring 20 years of professional design experience in the Kansas City area to the program. That experience includes knowledge of and contacts in the design community.

"Besides providing a strong curriculum that teaches students what they need to know to be successful designers, I can help them gain exposure to the professional world through guest speakers and juries for project presentation, visits to design firms and vendors/dealers, involvement in professional organization activities, and providing mentors for seniors."

Interior design student, Zehara Abdelhadi, has changed her major twice, but she says interior design is something she wants to stick with to complete her academic career.

"I like interior design, because I find it challenging and exciting every time I'm in there," says Abdelhadi. "I have changed my major twice, so this is my first year in interior design, so I'm still new to the program. I can say it's hard work, but I still enjoy what I'm doing and I don't plan on changing my major again."

While the program has potential for growth, Boehr says she still has a lot to do to get the program up to full speed.



An art student attempts to shy away from the camera while she works.

gain experience on stage and in the classroom, as well as personally."

One more area of Park's growing art department is the interior design program, headed by Assistant Professor Kay Miller Boehr, a registered architect and professional member of the International Interior Design Association.

But, according to Boehr, the interior design program is growing more slowly than other art programs. However, Boehr says the program has potential to grow



"This program needs to be accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, which only accredits interior design," says Boehr, "but in order to do that, I must first assist the program in getting NASAD accreditation, which accredits schools of art and design and we are years away from that accreditation. I need at least one more full time faculty member as well."

"I find that it is very difficult to make progress in areas that we need to focus on because my time is constantly being demanded for other mostly irrelevant tasks."

Boehr would also like to move the program out of the Underground.

"We desperately need to move from the underground," says Boehr. "We need to be in a building with the rest of the art department and we need more space for our program. The space needs to include resources for students such as a copy/printing center and

design library."

A central building for the art department is a goal shared by many in the art department, including Sylvester.

"Being with classmates in a central location provides lots of time to think, dream, and talk design," says Sylvester.

"I think Park should provide the artists with a central location. This allows lots of interaction between students from the different departments

'I have to go from building to building and I keep losing my car'

-- Donna Bachmann of art. It helps unite the program and develops social interaction."

Bachmann also agrees that the scattering of the department across campus is a problem.

"The fragmentation is a real limit to our growth," says Bachmann. "Even getting information between departments is difficult. I have to go from building to building and keep losing my car, sometimes at 7 o'clock at night. I have to think, 'where's the car?'"

Art students at work across the Parkville campus.



Photo/Tessa Elwood
Anna Mandina



Photo/Tessa Elwood
April McArthur



Photo/Tessa Elwood
Nan Schooling



Photo/Jill Harmon
Aaron **Ennis**



Photo/Jill Harmon
Sunny Thomas



Photo/Jill Harmon
Nan **Schooling**



Photo/Jill Harmon
Colleen **Mahoney**

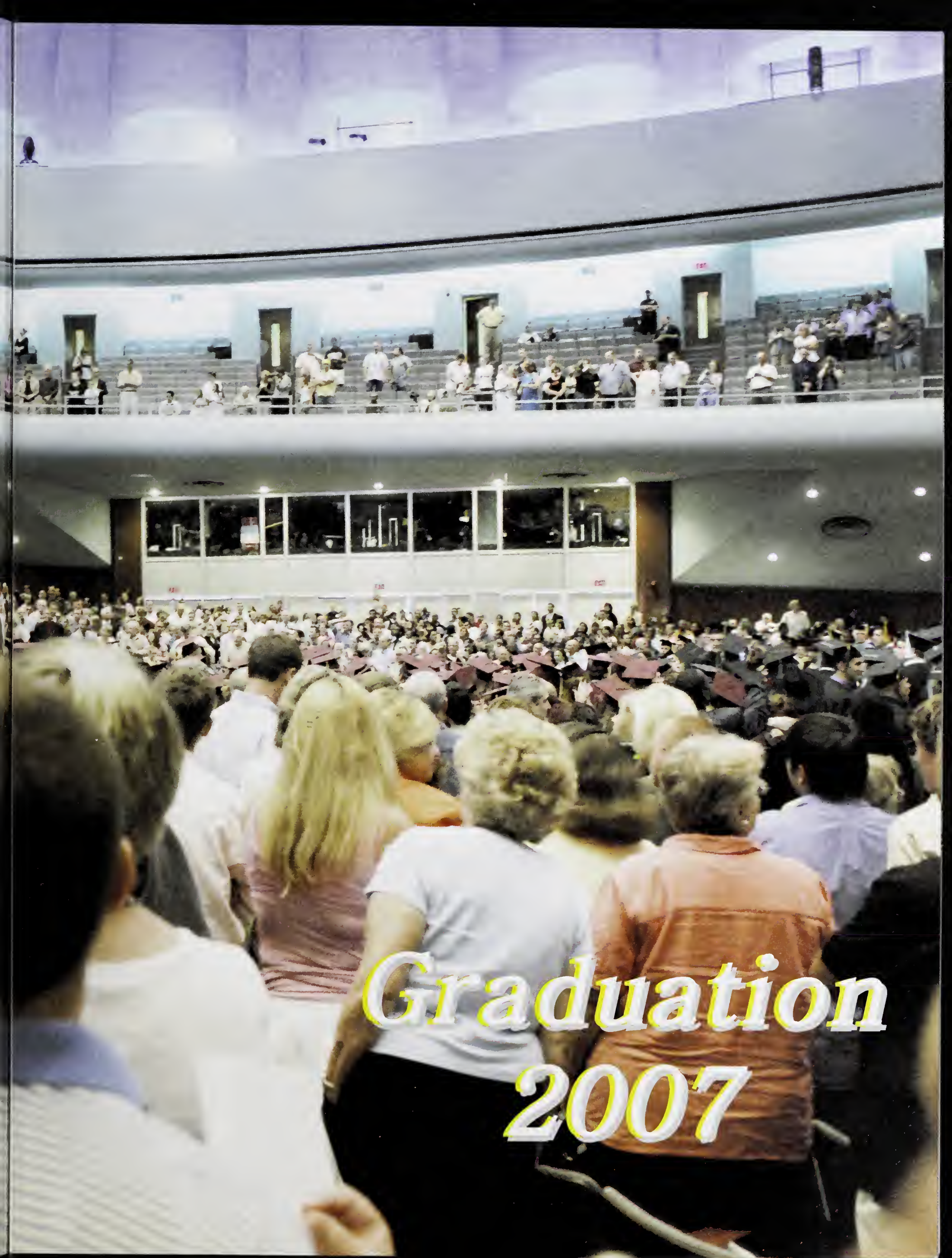


Photo/Jill Harmon
Anna **Mandina**



photo/Jill Harmon
Brian





Graduation *2007*

Nearly 500 students receive degrees May 12

Park University awarded graduate and undergraduate degrees to 481 students on May 12, 2007, at the Community of Christ Auditorium in Independence, Mo. Jackie Snyder, Ed.D., chancellor for the Metropolitan Community Colleges, was the keynote speaker.

Snyder is a home-grown educator. She attended Kansas City Kansas Community College and taught in the Shawnee Mission School District. She taught at Johnson County Community College then joined its administration. In 1995, she moved to the

Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City, Mo., as vice chancellor of economic and resource development. She was responsible for opening MCC's Business and Technology.

In addition to the nearly 500 students who received degrees was one student whose diploma was conferred via video conference. Park University President Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts conferred the degree of bachelor of science in management/human resources to Staff Sgt. Steven Poole via live video feed from Kuwait.

Originally from Indianapolis,

Ind., Staff Sgt. Poole serves in the U.S. Air Force as an Aerospace Maintenance Craftsman. Currently, he is deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait where he works for the 386 Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (EAMXS). He officially finished his undergraduate degree last fall and is now enrolled in Park's Online Graduate School, pursuing a master's in business administration with an emphasis in international relations.

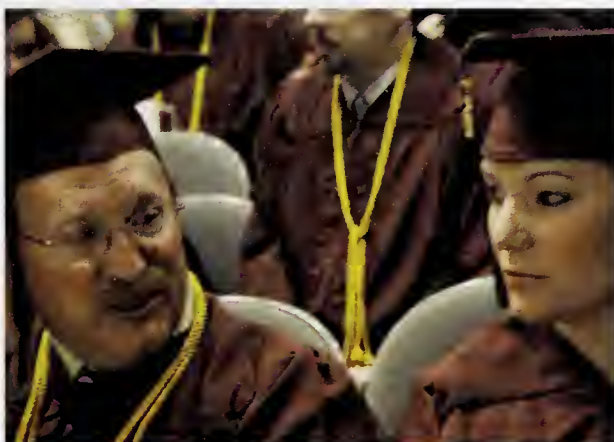
His family traveled from Indianapolis to Independence to

be present at the ceremony. His parents walked across the stage and stood next to President Byers-Pevitts while they watched their son receive his diploma on the large screen at the back of the auditorium.



Graduates with big smiles were everywhere at Park University graduation exercises May 12.

**Photo: Tessa
Renee Elwood**



Park graduates posed in front of the American flag. Kelley Walker-Chance (left) smiled for the camera, (middle) Debra McArthur, director of academic support services, posed with son Alan McArthur, and (right, above) Ying-Ying Hung awaited her turn to walk.

Photos: Tessa Renee Elwood

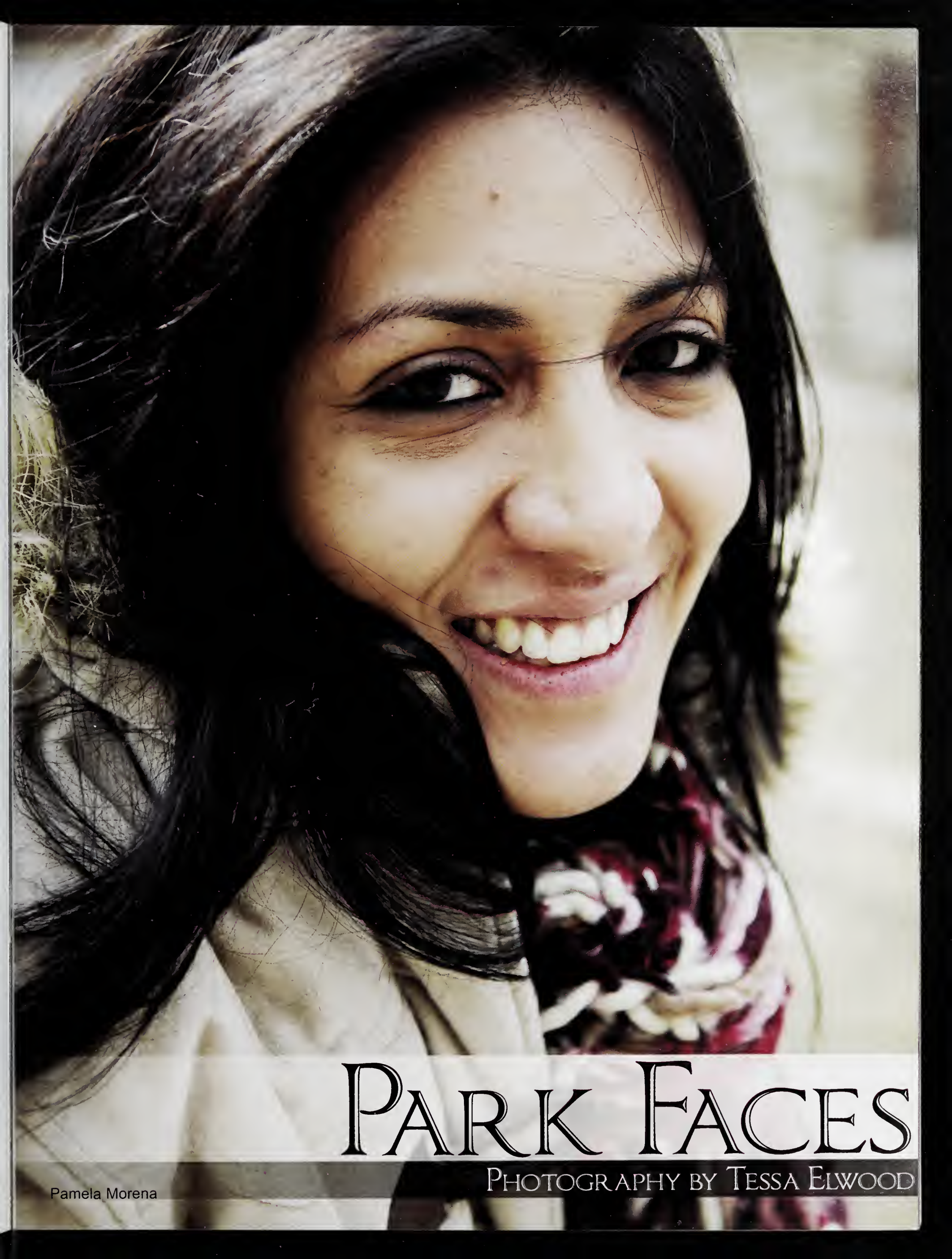
Soldier receives Park degree in Kuwait

Congratulations Staff Sgt. Steven Poole



Park University President Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts conferred the degree of bachelor of science in management/ human resources to Staff Sgt. Steven Poole via live video feed from Kuwait. His image was shown on a screen in the auditorium and his parents joined the Park president at the podium.

Photos by Tessa Renee Elwood



PARK FACES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TESSA ELWOOD

Pamela Morena

Clarinda Creighton



Tiffany Clark



Greg Crainshaw







Kinuko Satol



Elvin Hatamzade

Kariuki Waweru



Akinori Nakashima



Max Schuman







Martin Rudderforth



Olisa Cifligu



Joanna Bess Griffin



Tatiana Woldman





Ekaterina V. Fedorova



SPORTS

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SOPHOMORE MEGHAN CUMMINGS

06-07 ROSTER

4	SARAH HOPKINS	SR.
11	TRACI ODEN	FR.
12	KATRENA RICHARD	JR.
14	RACHEL BANKHEAD	JR.
15	JENICIA STEPHENS	JR.
20	KATHERINE BAKER	JR.
21	JESSICA STANLEY	JR.
23	AMY ANDREWS	FR.
24	CHERRALE RICKS	JR.
25	JACQUELINE GREER	SO.
32	CHANTE' DEAN	SO.
33	MEGHAN CUMMINGS	SO.
40	RACHEL HARTFORD	JR.

Coaching Staff

Joe C. Meriweather
Head Coach

Katie Cummings
Assistant Coach



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BY GARY BATLINER JR.

Park University's women's basketball team, despite a dismal 2-23 regular season, showed guts and courage, winning in the first round of the Independent Region Tournament, 74-42 against Allen University. However, their season came to an end the next day against Brescia University in a hard fought 34-45 contest.

The team's effort on the year did not go unnoticed as a few players received honors. Sophomore Meghan Cummings was rewarded for her efforts by being selected to the All-Independent Region First Team; she led the team on the year in both scoring and rebounding, averaging 12.6 points and 7.8 rebounds per game, including seven double-doubles. Fellow sophomore, Jacqueline Greer,



Freshman Traci Oden waits at the free throw line

was added to the All-Independent Region Tournament Team for her 12-point, 12-rebound, average over Park's two

games in the tournament. Finally, junior Rachel Bankhead was named an All-Independent Region Scholar-Athlete for her accomplishments in the classroom. Bankhead is a business administration/management major; who averaged 8.1 points and 4.4 rebounds per game.

After their loss in the tournament Park had to say goodbye to senior Sarah Hopkins; a guard who averaged 4.1 points and 17.4 minutes per game.



S, 'N E M



Above: Mike Burton
At Right: T. J. Burton, Michael
Zimmerman and Michael Vlach

06-07 ROSTER

2	T.J. WESLEY	SR.
3	MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN	SO.
10	ARTURO DONZELLA	JR.
11	DONOVAN WILLIAMS	JR.
12	MICHAEL KOCH	JR.
13	ERIC EVANS	FR.
20	KEVIN NELSON	SR.
23	BRANDON VOORHEES	SR.
31	NICK BURTON	JR.
32	RICHARD GRAY	SR.
33	FRANK BAPTISTE	SR.
35	BEN WALLIS	JR.
44	JON MERIWEATHER	SO.
45	ADMIR ALJIC	JR.

Coaching Staff

Jason Kline
Head Coach

Antowin Edwards
Assistant Coach

Gordon Stubblefield
Assistant Coach

BY GARY BATLINER JR.

This past season the men's basketball team had one of the most impressive seasons in Park University's history. They finished the regular season 22-6 and ranked ninth nationally. They were also both the Independent Region Conference champions and won the Independent Region Tournament; which gave them an automatic invite to the NAIA Division I National Tournament.

It was only the third time in school history that Park participated in the tournament and proved their right to be there by defeating Olivet Nazarene University 68-62 to advance to the second round. In the second round, Park's dreams of a national championship came to an end when they lost 91-98 to Azusa University.

Next season Park will have to try to repeat the magic without five seniors; including NAIA First-Team All-American

Brandon Voorhees who was also selected, along with Kevin Nelson, to participate in the first ever Collegiate Basketball Invitational. The 60 best seniors from NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, and the NAIA were selected.

Voorhees led the country in scoring with 25.2 points per game; Nelson averaged 19.8 points per game.

T.J. Wesley, Frank Baptiste, and Richard Gray are the other seniors to be missed next season.



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CROSS COUNTRY



W O M E N ' S

LACY BROOKSHIER	JR.
KIM BROSWELL	FR.
RACHEL FESSENDEN	SO.
ERYCKA FISHER	SO.
ADDIE FLOYD	FR.
JOVAN FRAZIER	SR.
KEYON HARRISON	SO.
MELINDA JANSEN	JR.
KARI MILLER	FR.
ROMONA NICOLLS	FR.
SARA PITIA	JR.
SYDNEY RENNACK	FR.
ANEIKA ROBINSON	JR.
BECKY TACKETT	SR.
ROSALIE WATKINS	SR.
DINA YAKATA	SO.

Coaching Staff

Brian Renshaw
Head Coach

Ron Pearl
Assistant Coach

06/07

R O S T E R

T R A C K & F I E L D

BY IAN MYERS

After placing an impressive 17th overall at the NAIA National Cross Country Championship, the awards began rolling in from every direction for Park University.

After wrapping up the MCAC and Region IV team titles, the Park athletes headed to Nationals where they put up fairly solid performances. Their solid performances aided them in receiving 18 different individual awards. Six different Pirates took home All-Region IV honors and seven took home All-MCAC awards, five being First Team.

Junior Melinda Jansen, senior Becky Tackett, and sophomore Dina Yakata combined to bring home nine awards out of the 18 handed out, including the MCAC's Most Valuable Performer, which was given to Yakata. Jansen managed to earn herself high honors by winning the Daktronics NAIA All American Scholar-Athlete award, handed out to standout student athletes who perform at the top of their game both on the field and in the classroom. Tackett's top award was First Team All-MCAC.

Another standout during the 2006 season was freshman Romona Nicolls. Nicolls, a native of the

Bahamas, was honored with two different awards of her own, First Team All-MCAC and First Team All-Region IV. Her surprising, yet much needed, outburst helped push Park to their impressive finishes both in track and cross country.

Head Coach Brian Renshaw, 2006 Region IV Coach of the Year and 2006 MCAC Coach of the Year, motivated the players and athletes to perform at their highest levels, leaving a good taste in the mouths of all at the end of the 2006 season.



At Left: Erycka Fisher and Keyon Harrison practicing for an upcoming tournament

CROSS COUNTRY



KRISTOFER ALLEN	FR.
CHRIS ALLRED	JR.
DEREK BUSH	FR.
JAMIE CHATMAN	SO.
LENES CHERY	SO.
KYLE CONKLING	JR.
AARON FRENCH	JR.
DEVIN HADDIX	SO.
DANIEL HARKINS	FR.
ZACHARY HITZELBERGER	FR.
RYAN JENSEN	SO.
JONATHAN LALE	FR.
KEITH LONGUSKI	SR.
CHARLES PARKER	JR.
CRISPIN REA	JR.
MAXWELL SCHUMAN	FR.
ARRIES SCOTT	SO.
ODIS SMITH	SR.

MEN'S 06/07 ROSTER

Coaching Staff

Brian Renshaw
Head Coach

Ron Pearl
Assistant Coach

BY IAN MYERS

A long season of hard work and competition saw the 2006 Men's Track and Cross Country teams bring home a number of awards and honors as well as a strong finish to the season.

Heading up the long list of postseason laurels was Keith Longuski. The senior from Ubly, Mich. was named a Daktronics NAIA All American Scholar-Athlete, one of two members of the Men's team to earn the prestigious award. The other was Crispin Rea. To compliment that award, he was also named a First Team All Region IV runner, an MCAC Scholar Athlete, and above all else, the MCAC Most Valuable Performer.

Another member of the team receiving high honors was Daniel Harkins. Harkins, freshman, was named an NAIA All American for his performances during the season. This award is given to top

athletes competing across the nation in the NAIA and is a much desired feat for any athlete competing in their respective sport. He was the only member of Park's Men's and Women's Track and Cross Country teams to earn the award.

Overall, 10 different Park runners received awards during the 2006 season. All together, 21 awards and honors were given to Park University runners. The athleticism of all of the members of the team helped the Pirates sail on to a 23rd place finish overall during the NAIA Track and Field Nationals held this year in Fresno, California.

With Head Coach Brian Renshaw, Region IV Coach of the Year and MCAC Coach of the Year, at the helm, this year's team accomplished many great things, making this a season never to forget.



Park's cross country men practice on the track
Far left: Lenés Chery races with his teammates

S , N E M O W



Left Amber Pacheco
At Right: Janice Baptiste, Dena
Pires and Sophie Chapman

00	Megan Newland	So.
1	Meghan Blackmore	So.
2	Angelica Tovar	Fr.
3	Janice Baptiste	Sr.
4	Kitti Katona	So.
5	Laura Baeza	Jr.
6	Dena Pires	So.
7	Natalie Parker	Fr.
8	Kristen Steiner	Jr.
9	Brittany Young	Jr.
10	Ashley McDowell	Fr.
11	Sophie Chapman	So.
12	Natasha Morris	Jr.
13	Ivy Chapin	Fr.
14	Melissa Gardner	So.
15	Kesiann Francis	Sr.
17	Ingrid Bodelson	Jr.
18	Amy Zahirski	Fr.
19	Maria Ruiz	Jr.
21	Amber Pacheco	Sr.

06/07 ROSTER

Coaching Staff

Ken Hefner
Head Coach



BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE

For the 2006 season, the Park University women's soccer team finished with a record of 16 wins and five losses. The team also went to the second round of the NAIA National Championship before losing to Houghton College, 1-2 in overtime.

Maria Ruiz, junior, was named a Second-Team All-American, scoring 22 goals and acquiring 13 assists during the 2006 season, adding to her honorable mentions her freshman and sophomore years. Ruiz was also named the MCAC offensive player of the year for the third time in her collegiate career.

Ruiz's teammates, Megan Newland,

sophomore, Dena Pires, sophomore, were given honorable mentions for their 2006 performances. Newland had 12 shutouts and allowed only 10 goals in 21 games and Pires finished the season with seven goals and three assists.

The team also had four players selected to the All-Region IV teams and seven to the All-MCAC squads.



S , N E M



At Left: Junior Teferi Tatek
Right: Sophomore Stefan Hirschmann
and Borja Uriguen

BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE

For the 2006 season, the Park University men's soccer team finished with a record of 13 wins, eight losses, and one tie. The team also went to the second round of the NAIA National Championship before losing to Webber International, 2-3.

Mirsad Dzilic, junior, was named an NAIA Third Team All-American, scoring 24 times and acquiring four assists during the 2006 season. Dzilic's teammates, Paul McLaughlin, senior, David Waithaka, senior, and James

Katajwa, sophomore, were given honorable mentions.

McLaughlin, who had 13 goals and seven assists in 2006,

making him second on the team behind Dzilic, also received an honorable mention as a freshman in 2003. Katajwa ended the season with 12 goals and six assists, just behind McLaughlin.

The team also had four players selected to the All-Region IV teams and six to the All-MCAC squads.

06/07 ROSTER

0	Sean Kosedner	So.
1	Stefan Hirschmann	So.
2	James Katajwa	So.
3	Matt Semkin	Jr.
4	Andrew Merrill	Sr.
5	Oscar Juma	So.
6	Borja Uriguen	Fr.
7	Stefan Stokich	Fr.
8	Teferi Tatek	Jr.
9	Mirsad Dzilic	Jr.
10	Milan Ivanovic	So.
11	Selvir Abidovic	Jr.
13	Oliseh Chuks	Sr.
14	Adam Tayani	Fr.
15	David Waithaka	Sr.
17	Nebeye Zemedu	Jr.
18	Paul McLaughlin	Sr.
20	Vlatko Andonovski	Fr.
25	Daniel Tamerat	So.
27	Matt Heiman	Fr

Coaching Staff

Efrem Shimlis
Head Coach

Timothy Kibune
Assistant Coach



S, 'N E M



06/07 ROSTER

1	Caio Maciel	Jr.
4	Ryan Stafford	Jr.
5	J.P. da Silva	Jr.
6	Nebojsa Janovic	Jr.
7	Henry Uribe	So.
8	Brett Ferguson	Jr.
9	Atef Soudan	Fr.
10	Jeremy Scharf	Sr.
12	Bosko Novovic	Fr.
13	Dragomir Katanic	So.
14	Dane Malone	Fr.
16	Joseph Mponzi	So.
20	Daniel Joens	Sr.
24	Derrick Benitz	Sr.
26	Nikola Bursac	So.

Coaching Staff

Cory Frederick
Head Coach

Mladen Bundalo
Assistant Coach

BY GARY BATLINER JR.

The wild and exciting ride of the men's volleyball season at Park University took the squad all the way to the NAIA National Invitational Tournament Championship, which they dropped to top-ranked California Baptist University.

Park, which finished the season 30-3, won a plethora of awards. Sophomore Henry Uribe was named MAMVIC West Player of the Year and selected to the All-MAMVIC First Team. Uribe led the team with 493 kills on the year.

Junior J.P. da Silva was honored as MAMVIC West Setter of the Year and was selected to First Team All-Conference. On the year he had 1181 assists.

Nebojsa Janovic, a junior, was named MAMVIC West Defensive Player of the year and selected to the All-MAMVIC West Second Team. Janovic led the team with 324 digs. Joining him on the Second Team was junior Ryan Stafford who was second on the team with 451 kills. Following the National Invitational Tournament, Stafford and da Silva were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

The final honor of the year went to head coach Cory Frederick. Frederick, who had just completed his third season as Park's head volleyball coach, was named the MAMVIC West Coach of the Year and the NAIA Coach of the Year.

Seniors include Jeremy Scharf, Daniel Joens, and Derrick Benitz.



Above: Caio Maciel successfully returns the ball; Ryan Stafford jumps high, attempting a block.
At Left: Nebojsa Janovic pauses a moment between plays.

S , N E M O



BY GARY BATLINER JR.

Despite out scoring their opponents 234-208 on the season, Park University's softball team finished with a disappointing 18-28 record. Their season ended on a six game losing streak, including two in the MCAC Tournament. Park lost the opener 8-14 against the College of Saint Mary and then lost to York College 1-7 in the losers bracket. They qualified for the tournament for only the second time in school history by compiling a 7-7 MCAC record.

Park featured just two pitchers on the year, Ashley Kirk, a junior, and Jamie Garman, a sophomore. Both pitchers had solid seasons further adding to the mystery surrounding the year. Kirk went 11-13 with a 3.28 ERA and 138.2 innings pitched. She struck-out 102 batters and walked only 36 while holding her opponents to a .284 batting average.

Garland only won seven games while losing 12 but still had a 3.53 ERA in 148.2 innings pitched. She struck-out 106 while walking 60 and held her opponents to a .299 batting average.



Above: Senior Brittany Plandor
At Left: Sophomore Jamie Garman pitches

The only other pitcher to make an appearance was freshman Andi Worden, who pitched in two games and gave up three earned runs. Combined the three pitchers gave up 143 earned runs. The 65 unearned runs could explain the surprising record.

Offense seemed to be the weapon of choice for this team; eight players posted batting aver-

ages over .300. Junior Nicole Betz who had a .425 batting average led the team. Junior Brittany Lowderman, who hit .372, followed her. Freshman Mary Beth Bourne led the team with four home runs followed by junior Megan Cummings three home-runs. There were two seniors on the team, Brittany Plandor and Katie Immele.

06/07 Roster

1	Jill Prather	Jr.
2	Mackenzie Magenheimer	Jr.
3	Nicole Betz	Jr.
4	Ashley Bogart	Fr.
5	Brittany Plandor	Sr.
7	Brittany Lowderman	Jr.
10	Tiffanie Marquez	Fr.
12	Katie Immele	Sr.
15	Jamie Garman	So.
16	Andi Worden	Fr.
18	Mary Beth Bourne	Fr.
20	Angelica Maxwell	Fr.
22	Ashley Kirk	Jr.
23	Rachel Hartford	Jr.
27	Miranda McWilliams	Fr.
34	Megan Goings	Jr.
22	Ashley Kirk	Jr.
23	Rachel Hartford	Jr.
27	Miranda McWilliams	Fr.
34	Megan Goings	Jr.

Coaching Staff

Amy Reif
Head Coach

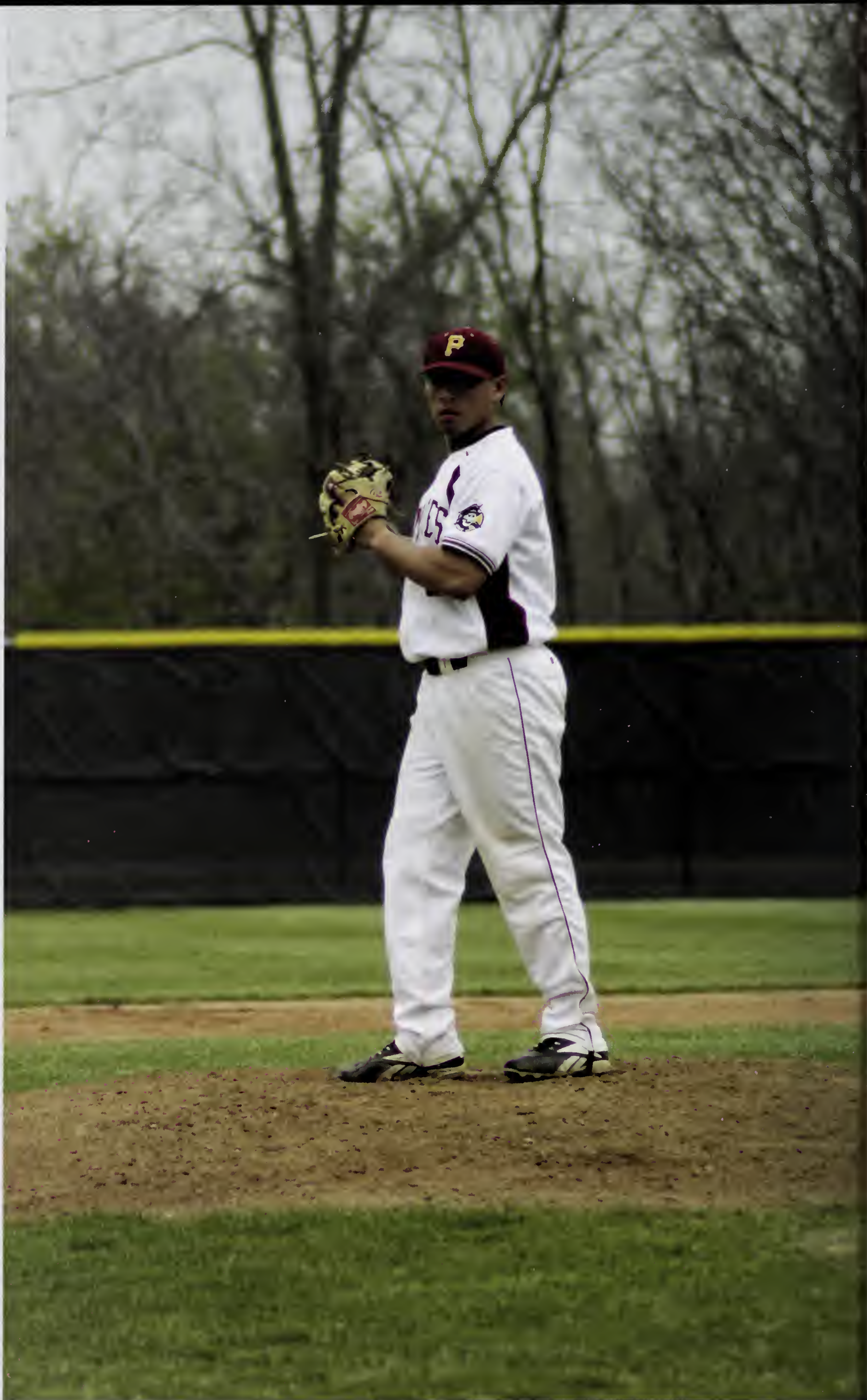
Brooke Woolery
Assistant Coach



Junior Rachel Hartford

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S, N E M



1	Kyle Iverson	Fr.
2	Enrique Fuentes	Jr.
3	Arturo Garcia	So.
4	Chad Farris	So.
5	Brett Gordon	So.
7	Greg Frost	Jr.
8	Dustin Laird	So.
9	John Angell	So.
10	Jake Russell	So.
11	Ross McCoy	Sr.
12	Ted Cox	So.
13	Gabriel Perez	Fr.
15	Sean Dodge	Jr.
16	Jon Sobbe	Sr.
17	Bo Prather	Jr.
18	Ryan Weedin	So.
19	Jacob Moore	Jr.

06/07 ROSTER

Baseball Coaching Staff

Cary Lundy
Head Coach

Chad Jones
Assistant Coach

20	Chris Luera	Jr.
21	Chris Everingham	Fr.
22	Shawn Holt	Fr.
23	Ryne Mendez	Sr.
24	Joe Germano	Jr.
25	Michael Younghanz	Sr.
26	Eric Roberts	Sr.
27	Jordan Henderson	So.
29	Richard Scott	Sr.
30	Brandon Skelton	Jr.
31	Mike Gomez	Sr.
32	Chris Hare	Jr.
34	Ryan Woolam	So.
42	Chase Keeler	Fr.
44	Daniel Redman	Sr.

BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE

The Park University baseball team finished the 2007 season with a record of 28 wins and 21 losses, bowing out to Bellevue University 7-3 at the Region IV Baseball Tournament in Omaha, Neb.

At the end of the season, three players received NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors, an award given to athletes at a junior level or above with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Ross McCoy, senior, earned the award for his second year in a row, while his teammates

Jacob Moore, junior, and Bo Prather, junior, were honored for their first time.

McCoy finished the season hitting .398, with six home runs and 25 RBIs while Moore finished at .286 with two RBIs. Prather led the team with seven wins and 50 strikeouts, finishing with a 4.48 ERA for the season.

Chris Luera, junior, was also selected for the All-Region IV First Team. Luera had a 6-2 record for the season with an ERA of 3.67 and 40 strikeouts.

Below: Brett Gordon and Dustin Laird play in the outfield



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W O M E N ' S



Above: Ashley Nicks tees off
At Right: Girls golf team members
include Sarah Molina, Nicole Wiehe,
Katie Johnson, Amy Hollander and
Ashley Nicks



BY MICHAEL WESTBLADE

Park University's Women's golf team finished their 2007 season with a second place finish in the NAIA Region IV Golf Championship in Bonner Springs, Kan. with a two round score of 355 and 340, finishing the tournament with a score of 695.

Southwestern College edged past Park University

to win the championship with a two round score of 336 and 333, finishing the tournament with a score of 669, just 26 shots lower than Park University. Peru State College finished third and York College finished fourth with scores of 740 and 822.

Katie Johnson, senior, took third place individually in the tournament with scores of 84 and 82. Ashley

Nicks, junior, finished in fifth individually with scores of 86 and 83 and Nicole Wiehe finished sixth individually with scores of 89 and 86. Johnson, Nicks, and Wiehe also earned All-Region IV honors.

After the tournament, Park University coach, Kelly Defeo, was named Region IV women's coach of the year.



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NICOLE AINSWORTH	FR.
AMY HOLLANDER	JR.
ROXANNE JENSEN	FR.
KATIE JOHNSON	SR.
SARAH MOLINA	SR.
ASHLEY NICKS	JR.
NICHOLE WISSEL	SO.
NICOLE WIEHE	FR.

Coaching Staff

Kelly DeFeo
Head Coach

06/07

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The *Narva* is the annual news and feature magazine of Park University produced by students in Communication Arts with contributions from other university students.

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